

SEOUL CONVENTION ISSUE

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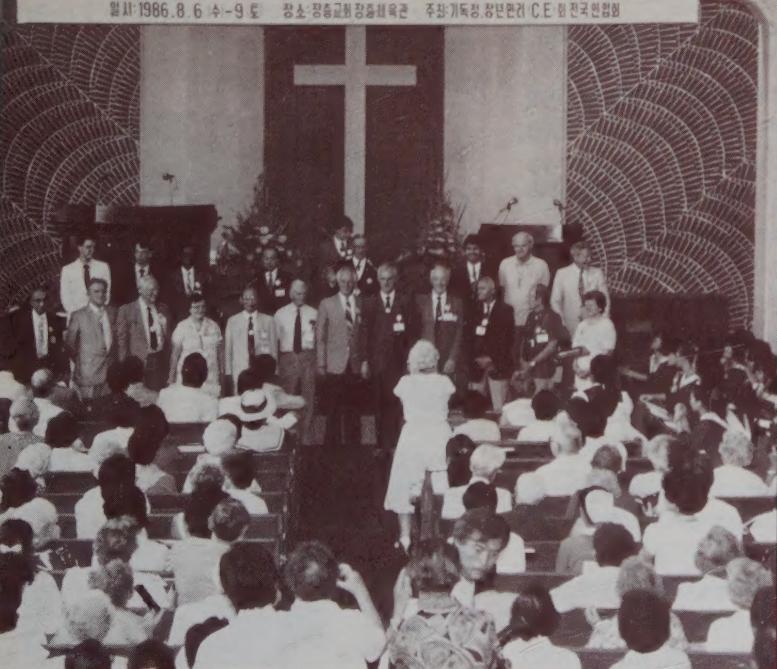
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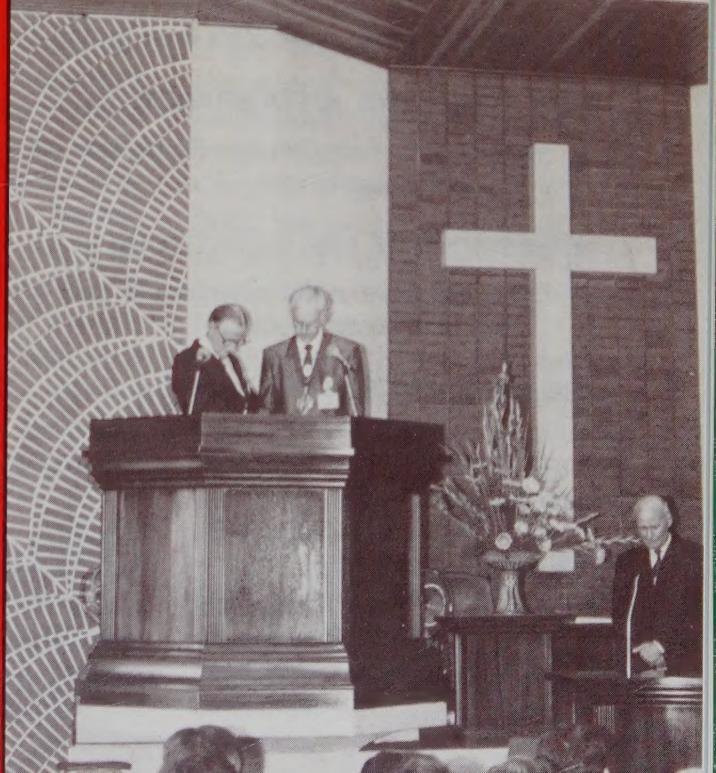


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THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD

THE VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

COVER

Colorful scenes from the World's Christian Endeavor Convention August 6-9, 1986, in Seoul, Korea, include the convention choir and orchestra, the installation of 1986-90 officers, and the transfer of the Presidential chain from James Murdoch to Konrad Brandt.

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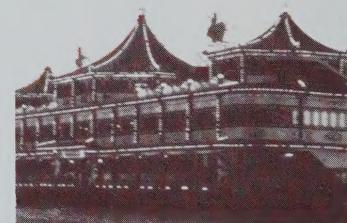
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SEOUL 1986: Challenging Encounter

By Rev. Konrad Brandt, President, World's Christian Endeavor Union

Preparing for the Seoul convention we knew it would be a challenge to us. All of us had similar language problems. We thank our Korean friends for solving this problem.

We also knew Seoul would become an encounter with visible church growth. And sure enough, on our way from the airport to the hotel we started counting churches. You just could not miss them. Attending church services, we learned that there are up to seven services per Sunday, and even worship service No. 4 at 1:30 p.m. was packed!

We heard about enthusiastic singing, praying, and preaching, and yet it became a challenging encounter listening to the great "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel, being amidst a praying congregation where each one talked to his God at the same time, and a way of preaching that nobody could fall asleep.

In spite of these observations, the real challenging encounter took place at the center: JESUS CHRIST...THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. That is how I see Christian Endeavor in the coming quadrennium: A CHALLENGING ENCOUNTER at the center, which is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being the newly-elected President, Seoul 1986 has become a personal challenging encounter. I

praise God for leading me into this worldwide body of Christian Endeavor. Only because I know HIS guidance was I able to accept.

May I use this first opportunity to challenge us in four directions?

1. That the Living God use Worldwide Christian Endeavor to enlarge our vision.

We get firsthand information on the true picture of other parts of the world. That means we not only get the regular news (which is mostly bad), but we also get challenging news about God's work in different countries. Let us share what the Lord is doing. Send in your report, using facts, figures, and your personal opinion. Why not do this right now? Let us do it prayerfully to God's glory. I was so happy to hear good reports in the worldwide fellowship at Seoul.

2. That the Living God use Worldwide Christian Endeavor for better understanding of each other.

There is so much misunderstanding in the church of our Lord. It is our chance in Christian Endeavor to exchange ideas across all kinds of barriers like denominations, races, cultures, nationalities. Knowing our true identity in Christ our Savior, we must not give up our own background—but the Kingdom of God has priority. I believe Matthew 6:33 applies to any need, even the need for fellowship and understanding. I pray that a better spiritual understanding may be a challenge to all of us.

3. That the Living God use Worldwide Christian Endeavor to care for each other.

Care must not start with funds. It rather starts with that kind of love the Holy Spirit has poured out into our hearts. And this is my challenge: Let us be ready to receive more than we might overflow, not



holding back our own self but including everything. Let us care and let us share because Jesus does (Galatians 6:10).

4. That the Living God use Worldwide Christian Endeavor to encourage each other.

We need encouragement not to give up the great task of reaching others for Christ. We cannot duplicate the revival of African countries nor the church growth of Korea. But we can talk to our Lord, asking for a goal like leading one person to Christ and HIS Church within the next twelve months. I challenge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to encourage each other to bring one person to Christ. Do not forget that two or three praying together have the promise of the Lord (Matthew 18:20).

Christian Endeavor means we are not alone with the Great Commission the Lord gave us. We may even share our experiences across the borders to encourage and to challenge each other.

I am looking forward to having this challenging encounter, meeting many of you in many places, at many occasions, and under God's blessings.



MASS MEETINGS

By Bidyut K. Pramanik (India)

"When Jesus is our light, we do not lose our way in darkness." With these words Rev. James Murdoch, the President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, declared the 20th World's Christian Endeavor Convention open in the Chang-Chung Stadium, Seoul, Korea. He added, "Today the light is shining in Korea because of their emphasis on prayer—their dawn prayer meetings—and we will learn from our Korean brothers and sisters the secret of prayer to keep the light burning."

More than 5,000 Endeavorers and friends from many countries around the world participated in the Convention in Seoul August 6-9. "Jesus Christ...the Light of the World" (John 8:12) was the central theme.

The 1,000-voice Korean Convention choir with the 78-member brass orchestra thrilled the delegates when they began with the "Hallelujah Chorus."

In his keynote address on the opening night, Dr. Clyde W. Meadows, Honorary President for Life of the World's Union, said, "We see the glorious light of God this hour in Korea."

He also said: God is light. In Him there is no darkness at all (I John 1:5). Light is the first thing God gave to this world (Genesis 1:3). Light is more powerful than darkness. Light can destroy darkness, but darkness cannot destroy light. Darkness surrenders to light.

Jesus Christ is the light of life and one who accepts Him shall not walk in darkness. He leads us in this life as He is the light of life. This gives us hope. The ship that is lost in darkness rejoices on seeing the light of the lighthouse. Similarly a Christian's hope is to go to heaven and Jesus Christ is the Light Who leads us in this dark world. He frees us from the power of darkness as

He did Peter in prison.

Dr. Meadows declared, "I have seen hope, light, and life in people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior." He concluded by referring to John 3:16, "whosoever" means whosoever, no matter what the nationality, cultural background, etc. "Jesus Christ is the Light of the World that shines from the heavenly source," were his concluding words.

On the second night, Rev. David G. Jackson conducted the Roll Call of Nations. When several Christian Endeavor leaders entered the stadium waving their national flags to the rhythm of the brass orchestra, the President of the World's Union, Rev. James Murdoch, quipped, "All of them are so different, but they are all one in Christ."

Rev. Chang-In Kim, minister of the Chung-Hyeon Presbyterian Church of Seoul, brought the Lord's message on the second night. He said, "We are all sons and daughters of one God and we are present here under God's invitation." We receive various types of invitations, some welcome and some not. He asked "Who has invited us tonight?" It is the One who lives in heaven. No ruler or king can rule forever in this world. But the One who has invited us tonight is ruling this world from the beginning till the end. His love always remains. We were groping in the darkness of sin and He came down to save us from our sins. We should fear Jesus for sooner or later He is returning to judge us.

He further asked, "What is the condition of your heart today? Is it burdened with anxiety, fear, suffering?" He said, "Come to Jesus, He will relieve you from your burdens. Accept His invitation and He will make you a new creature." He challenged the delegates by saying,

"Share God's love, God's hope, and your faith with others. As Jesus has invited you, you should invite others to Jesus." If anyone is in darkness, bring him to the light of Jesus Christ.

On the third night, Rev. Arno Pagel, Honorary President for Life of the World's Union, based his message on the text taken from Revelation 22:1-7. He began, "We thank God for we learn from this country many things and specially how the Church of God is growing in Korea."

There is a truth and urgency in the theme chosen for this convention. At creation, God said, "Let there be light and there was light." It is not sunlight, moonlight, or any ordinary light. Here light means something more. We can see the glory of the eternal God through this light. He mentioned that great light is now shining in the East African country of Uganda.

One who is saved through Jesus Christ is moving in the Kingdom of Light. We can walk in darkness without any fear. Walking in light means moving with the love of Christ. We are invited to move into the light. Jesus came to this world and light came to the world and many received the light in their hearts. The Church is waiting with hope for the triumphant return of Christ.





BUSINESS AS USUAL

By Clyde Sherk (Canada)

Dawn Prayer Services

By George Campbell (Scotland)

It is 5:20 a.m. and entering Chang-Chung Presbyterian Church there is a choir rehearsing. Could this be true? But then we are in Korea. They leave the choir stalls and return fully robed ready for the first Dawn Prayer Service of the 20th World's Christian Endeavor Convention. As an onlooker it was interesting to see that with two minutes to starting time, the church was full. We are in the middle of the first hymn and they are starting to put chairs in the aisles; always remember, this is still 5:34 a.m.

Yes, this is Korea and we are thrilled to be witnesses of what is a daily event in the church in this land. There is an atmosphere of prayer, expectancy, of dedication, and as one thinks back on reports from Korea and the church growth, it is evident that the power of God is prayed down upon the land of faithful believers. The messages daily were charged with the Spirit of God, the solos (yes, at 5:45 a.m.) were a blessing to our souls, and as we started the day in the House of God with God's people praising and praying, it was just a foretaste of what would be our portion during the day.

Each morning, Thursday through Saturday, we were privileged to witness and be part of "God's Praying People."

For me, as we hear each day on our British TV morning program, "Start the day right," the day during the convention was started right in the presence of God. Thank you, Korea, for this experience.

Business sessions held in conjunction with the World's Convention in Seoul included the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and the quadrennial meeting of the Council. President James Murdoch presided over these meetings.

The major item of business conducted during these sessions was the election of officers, by the Council, for the coming four-year period. Rev. Konrad Brandt was elected as President and was warmly welcomed to this high office. Mr. Brandt has capably served the World's Union in many areas, including the office of Vice-President, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee. His past experience also includes employment by the German Christian Endeavor Union. Currently, he is residing in Taipei, Taiwan, serving as a mission representative of the Marburg Mission. Mr. Brandt spoke to the Council following his election expressing appreciation for being elected to this office. He quoted from Job 23:14, "For He performs what is appointed for me," indicating that this verse had been shared with him that morning by some of the Taiwanese young people at the convention.

Vice-Presidents elected were: Dr. LaVerne H. Boss (U.S.A.), Rev. James Carson (Northern Ireland), P. A. R. Chesterton (Australia), and Yong-Kee Paik (Korea). Rev. David G. Jackson (U.S.A.) was elected to continue as General Secretary and Clerk of the Corporation and Rev. James Heron (Scotland) as Area II General Secretary. The important office of the Treasurer will continue to be filled by Mrs. Phyllis R. Meadows (U.S.A.). The elected members of the Executive Committee will comprise Dr. LaVerne Boss, Margaret L. Clarkson, Rev. James

Murdoch, and Dr. Jack R. Rothenberger.

Members elected to the Board of Trustees in addition to those named are: Lavern R. Billig (U.S.A.), George Campbell (Scotland), Rev. Murray Chambers (Australia), Samuel Guerrero (Mexico), Dr. Albert Luka (Egypt), Dr. Clyde W. Meadows (U.S.A.), Dr. Takashi Oku (Japan), Ernest D. Overkamp (U.S.A.), Christoffer Pfeiffer (Germany), Bidyut K. Pramanik (India), Oswell Rankine (Cayman Islands), Clyde Sherk (Canada), Rev. Billy Simbo (Sierra Leone), Rev. Geurt van Viegen (Netherlands), and Burkhard Weber (Germany).

Elected as honorary trustees, to recognize their past service, were Frances M. Becker (U.S.A.), Mrs. Ernest R. Bryan (U.S.A.), William J. Sharpe (England), and Harold E. Westerhoff (U.S.A.).

Some twenty national unions responded to the roll call at the Council meeting. President Murdoch summarized his many activities during his term of office. He referred to the numerous national unions he has visited throughout the world and the opportunities that he has had as the President.

General Secretary David Jackson reported in detail of his work since June 1, 1984, when he was elected to this position. During the past four years there have been five new Christian Endeavor unions officially recognized by the World's Union. These are the unions of Cameroon, Brazil, New Zealand, Ghana, and Liberia. Contacts continue to be made in other countries around the world.

Deepest appreciation was expressed to both the President and the General Secretary for their complete reports and for their excellent work.



Rev. James Heron
Area II General Secretary

When we arrived in Korea the notice that met our gaze said it all, "WELCOME TO KOREA, THE LAND OF MORNING CALM."

That calm quiet in the heart and soul pervaded the scene of the whole convention where we experienced ILLUMINATION—"Jesus Christ...the Light of the World. In Bible studies and evening meetings Jesus, the Light, shone into our hearts and as we looked to Him we became radiant and our faces were not ashamed. Jesus illuminated our hearts and our minds.

We experienced INSPIRATION. The Holy Spirit breathed into our hearts with refreshing newness and our faith and our fellowship was stimulated with lively fervor. The Koreans in prayer and praise gave vent in an enthusiastic way to their spiritual feelings which caused them with evident spontaneity to praise the Lord.

We experienced INTEGRATION as we mingled with Endeavorers from many parts of the world and as flags were waved and exchanged on Thursday night. One nation said to another, "Welcome to my world," and we instinctively knew that we were "All one in Christ Jesus and in Christian Endeavor."

We experienced INSTRUCTION as we were taught the Word by Bible teachers, preachers, and evangelists and as we were instructed to know the faith, to spread the faith, and to share the faith not

THE WORLD'S CONVENTION

only with those in the convention but also those in the community.

My closing word would be IN-DEBTEDNESS. On behalf of Area II of the World's Christian Endeavor I say, "Thank you so much for receiving us so warmly." Our faces, language, customs, and cultures may differ, but in the sense of thanksgiving our word is one. Firstly to God, HALLELUJAH, PRAISE THE LORD. Secondly to the Convention Committee of the World's Union, MANY, MANY THANKS; and to the Korean Chairman, Elder Yong-Kee Paik, and his hard working and untiring committee, KHAM SA HAM NI DA.

Sam Kaauwai
(Hawaii)

Aloha! Greetings from Hawaii. The World's Convention in Korea was filled with the Spirit. From the opening of the convention until its closing, all were in awe over the power of the Spirit of God.

Many people gave of their time. Especially the Koreans need to be thanked. We were all very warmly received.

I am so very glad that it was possible for me to be there. This was my first convention. I was recently elected president of the Hawaii State Christian Endeavor Association. The first thing I asked God for was help. You see, I was brought up in Christian Endeavor. However, I went to boarding school from the seventh grade and then to college in Idaho. So my ties with Christian Endeavor are weak. And through this, He has made it possible for me to be at the convention and God has shown me that the Spirit does move in Christian Endeavor, in training youth to be leaders.

I was very amazed and glad to see so many youth participating from Korea. The music that was sung just filled my heart with Jesus Christ. It was a very moving and inspiring experience. The Koreans

are like the Hawaiian people—they sing with their heart.

One could see the dedication of the youth to the church. They were so helpful to try and bridge the language barrier. I found it fascinating how everyone helped each other.

Knowing some of the history of the Korean people, we are glad they have found the Light, Christ Jesus. For Jesus surely is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD (our theme this year). May we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in North Korea that they might also find the Light.

Aloha Ke Alua (God is love).

Gladys Colvin
(Ireland)

As a first-time delegate to a World's Convention, a lasting impression has been made upon me. This convention has been bubbling over with enthusiasm, sincerity, and zeal for Christ and His Church, which has obviously been backed by an immeasurable amount of hard work and effort on the part of all concerned.

The choir and its music was an inspiration as it led the worship so richly and beautifully each evening. As I observed and joined in the praise and prayer, which is so totally uninhibited and free, I felt the Korean people have a lot to teach the Western World.

I was especially impressed by two other things. Firstly, the generosity and kindness shown to me as a foreigner, and to all those who had come to Korea. Secondly, their Christianity is their life—it is central and vital to all they do as is evident in their preparation for the Olympic games in 1988.

As a representative for Ireland, I considered it a great privilege to share in this event and experience the bond and unity there is in Christ between people of different race and language—"All one in Christ Jesus."

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

Yasuo Yonekura
(Japan)

The 20th World's Christian Endeavor Convention was closed in much blessings.

It was so wonderful that we praised the Lord in singing "For Christ and the Church" with many different tongues in unity in Christ.

Through all the meetings, I felt our Lord was with us. Especially at the morning Bible studies and evening special prayer services, the Holy Spirit worked upon my heart. I was awakened to believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him to endeavor for my life.

I was so happy to have an opportunity to come to our neighboring country, Korea, and know more about the Korean church and the people. After each message, they have the Time of Blessing. I couldn't understand what the speaker was shouting, but I could understand how they are enthusiastic to evangelize the people.

In Japan the Christians are only one percent of the whole population. After I go back, I'd like to devote myself to Christian Endeavor Principles and serve "For Christ and the Church" faithfully, so that the Light can shine for everyone and everywhere in Japan.

Members of the
Taiwan Delegation

We were there. Who? A delegation of ten people from Taiwan including three missionaries. Although not being organized on Taiwan as Christian Endeavor, we were part of that worldwide fellowship, presenting some songs in Chinese and greeting the other delegates.

Each morning started with a typical dawn prayer service at 5:30 a.m. followed by a Bible study in different languages with three different subjects: Knowing the Light,

Spreading the Light, and Enjoying the Light.

We really enjoyed our stay at Seoul, realizing a larger body of Christ throughout many nations and denominations. The newly-elected President, Pastor Konrad Brandt, challenged us with two terms he connected with the Bible.

1. He called upon a "Maintenance Department" to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

2. He encouraged us to take part in the "Imitation Committee" according to I Corinthians 11:1. Pastor Brandt pointed to the past five presidents of the Bible-oriented, Christ-centered, and church-oriented movement of Christian Endeavor, of whom three were present.

We also learned about new national unions getting started in Liberia and Ghana, West Africa. Their delegates encouraged us with their testimonies about God's work in Africa.

Last but not least, we have been thrilled by the number of Korean Christians and their churches throughout the nine-million city of Seoul. We have never seen such crowds going to church in spite of six or seven services per church each Sunday.

We praise God through our Lord Jesus Christ for this experience, praying for revival in our own country.

Geurt van Viegen
(The Netherlands)

Although there existed large cultural differences between South Korea (including Asia) and Europe and America, I felt at home. It was apparent again these days that we are all members of the universal body of Christ Jesus. Everything else is of secondary importance.

Despite the language boundary one experienced friendliness, attention, and patient accompani-



ment offered by the brothers and sisters of Korea. Important musical highlights and useful aids were given by the choir and orchestra. I was surprised and rejoiced by these contributions. Still today I hear the echo of the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel in my ears and heart.

A highlight was the Korean Folk Festival in the National Theatre August 7. The first confrontation with the culture of Korea was of a singular beauty.

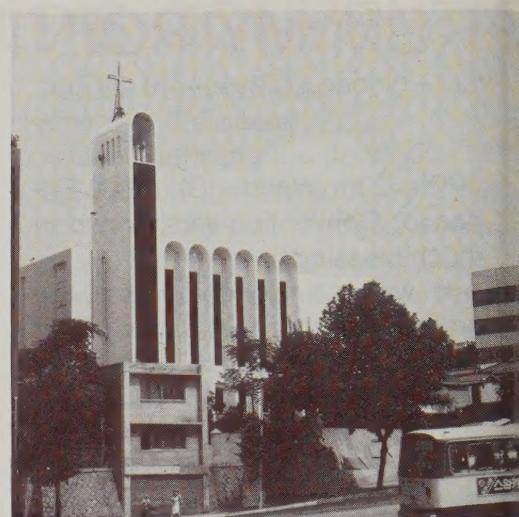
We may amaze ourselves by the fact that the light of God shines so brightly in Korea. Many people have found the faith and every day new churches are founded. Praise the Lord! One of the driving forces is the prayer. In Korea prayer and reading of the Bible have a central position and fasting is also important.

During the convention, early in the morning and late in the evening, services of prayer were performed. I think that it is very important for the Christian Endeavor movement all over the world to recognize the fundamental place of prayer and reading of the Bible and also to practice it, just as it was in the early days of the movement. Christian Endeavor can survive our modern times and can become a factor of importance only when the Bible and its principles become the spiritual center again and remain in that position.



Above, top—The Chang-Chung Stadium was the site of evening sessions and morning general assembly periods; **bottom**—these huge street signs proclaimed the convention to the millions in Seoul.

Right, upper—Chang-Chung Presbyterian Church provided space for the Dawn Prayer Service and Bible Study groups, as well as the closing Saturday morning communion and the evening prayer and praise service; **lower**—Korean leaders with James Murdoch at the buffet breakfast Saturday morning.



제 20차 세계 기독 청년 (C.E)
THE 20TH WORLD'S CHRISTIAN YOUTH (C.E) CONVENTION
6-9 AUG 1986 SEOUL KOREA



Left, upper—Korean Convention Committee recognized at evening service; **lower**—Australian delegation poses for group photo.

Seoul Convention Scrapbook

Above, top—The Flag Exchange was an exciting part of the colorful Roll Call of Nations; **lower**—James Heron and translator Young Son at podium with Pastor Chang-In Kim at center of photo.



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ENDEAVOR CONVENTION

A GREAT SCOT

by P. A. R. Chesterton
(Australia)

The World's Christian Endeavor Union has been led over the past four years by an indefatigable Scotsman, the Reverend James Murdoch.

Jim, as he is so affectionately known around the globe, has endeared himself as a loving, caring man of God to countless numbers of people in just about every area of the world.

Following his election as World's President in his beloved home country of Scotland during the Second Century Conference in 1982, he has consistently advanced Christian Endeavor as an integral needful aspect of the on-going work of the Christian Church.

As a leader he has shown his gift of expertise whether in the role of: Chairman of the World's Union Council and Board of Trustees; guest speaker at mass rallies; trail blazer in the cause of Christian Endeavor; esteemed guest at civic gatherings; participant in radio interviews and talk-back sessions; guest participant in television appearances; or down-to-earth sharing in small group gatherings.

"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength" he has shown himself to be an enormous encourager, a steady stabilizer, and a sustained exponent for the advancement of Christian Endeavor.

The whole world of Christian Endeavor gives its mightiest thanks to our Heavenly Father for His provision of such an outstanding servant and steward.

FOUR WONDERFUL YEARS

by James Murdoch

"He's got the whole world in His hands!" The refrain of the well-known spiritual has often come to mind during the past four years while serving Christian Endeavor as World President. So has Isaiah 52:10: "The Lord has bared His holy arm...that all the ends of the earth might see the salvation of our God."

As we have traveled far and wide the evidence of God's presence is seen through the ministry of His Church, and it has been good to know Christian Endeavor continues to help the Church of Christ amongst many races, in many countries and denominations.

I have visited during the past four years the following national Christian Endeavor unions: American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Canada, Cayman Islands, England, Ghana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Liberia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Scotland, Sierra Leone, United States, Wales, West Germany, and Western Samoa. It was a special pleasure to welcome the new national union in New Zealand, and to assist in setting up Christian Endeavor unions in Ghana and Liberia in February of this year. Many of us had the opportunity to greet and share fellowship with the Christian Endeavor Presidents from these countries at the convention in Seoul, Korea. I want to thank again all who made it possible by their gifts for them to attend.

Highlights

It is very difficult to pick out the "highlights" of these four years—because there were so many! We (my wife Betty worked with me as often as possible) fulfilled hundreds of engagements; ministered the Word and shook hands with thousands; and traveled over 200,000 miles in the service of Christian Endeavor. The Lord was

so good in giving us traveling mercies, good health, and spiritual strength—we believe in response to many who were faithfully praying for us day by day. There were "big" occasions attended by hundreds and (quite often) thousands, and there were also many smaller meetings, but all were worthwhile and "precious in His sight." We sought, under His guidance, to emphasize the commitment Christian Endeavor places on doing His will in our lives—the "WHATEVER" He would like us to do, as stated in our Pledge. It pleased us to see a ready response to the spiritual and Scriptural basis of our movement.

Broadcasts, Processions, and Conventions

It was exciting to be called at 6:30 a.m. one morning to take part in a radio program 12,000 miles away in Sydney, Australia. Likewise, another time to share with the World's Union Secretary in a radio "hook-up" broadcast by the Moody Bible Institute from Chicago, but directly linked by them with Columbus, Ohio, and Killin in Scotland! To be part of a banner waving, chorus singing, and gaily dressed procession which stopped the traffic in South India was an unforgettable experience. To see a morning session of 4,000 young people engaged in Bible study and prayer at German conventions was most inspiring.

To share by correspondence with the secretary in war-torn Lebanon, and to see at first-hand that things are not nearly so bad as are made out in Northern Ireland was comforting and challenging. A special invitation to visit East Germany, where the spirit of Christian Endeavor still is strong, was a revelation of God's overruling power.

(continued on page 14)

Meet Conny and Jutta Brandt—Up Close and Personal

By Clyde W. Meadows

Rev. Konrad Brandt, the sixth President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, was installed August 9, 1986, in Seoul, Korea, for a term of four years. He and his wife Jutta are currently living in Taiwan, where he is a mission representative of the Marburg Mission.

Conny, as he is known to many, was born July 22, 1936, at Libau, Latvia. The family was called back to Germany in 1939. His father was a Christian and did not accept Hitler's call to occupy Polish homes, but moved to Danzig.

He was raised in a Christian home with a strong Lutheran background, but was encouraged by his parents to be active in whatever church was in the community. Consequently, he studied the Heidelberg Catechism of the Reformed Church and was confirmed in that faith. In Hamburg he learned the Lutheran Catechism. He also got acquainted with the Baptists, on holidays in Switzerland learned about the Fellowship Movement, and while living in the south of Germany made contact with the Methodists.

As a young man of 19 or 20 he became a Christian Boy Scout and served as a leader. Through this service he found a new relationship to Christ. In the revival movement in Germany in the 1950's Konrad attended a tent meeting with his Scout group and there made a total commitment to Christ.

He went to school according to the German system. Following grammar school for eight years, he had no chance to go to high school because of the war, but did spend two years in commercial studies and worked as a bank clerk. After he emigrated to the United States with his family in January 1957 he

worked as a salesman while he completed his high school education at night in Chicago, Illinois.

Through Conny's acquaintance with the Marburg Mission in Chicago he was persuaded to go back to Germany to attend seminary. He graduated in 1964 and decided to remain in Germany. He went to Muelheim, near Essen, to serve as a pastor for the Christian Endeavor youth groups of the area.

This had far-reaching effects for it was here that he met H. Jutta Mueller. Conny confides, "I could see from the very beginning she was attractive."

Under his pastoral leadership her group of five or six active members carried out youth evangelization and over ninety were brought into the church. Conny and Jutta announced their engagement in 1965. In 1966 he was moved to Kassel to become a village pastor for the fellowship churches in the rural area and on April 15, 1967, he and Jutta were married at the Fellowship Church in Kassel.

While he was a pastor near Kassel, the German Christian Endeavor Union was organizing a tour to bring a thousand delegates to the World's Convention in Belfast in 1966. They needed German-English speaking pastors and asked Konrad to accompany the group.

Again in 1970 Conny was one of the leaders of the German delegation to a World's Convention, this time in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. That year he gave himself to full-time work with Christian Endeavor.

One of his assignments was to look after the extensive German missionary projects in India. Because of this he went back to school



in 1982 and earned a Master of Missiology degree. He speaks not only German and English, but some French, Spanish, and Chinese.

On December 1, 1984, Konrad began his full-time work with the Marburg Mission. His first assignment was to coordinate its work in Taiwan. His temporary headquarters there is at 53 Lung Chiang Road, Taipei 10434, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Jutta is a talented co-worker with her husband. A professional physiotherapist, she speaks German, English, and French, and has translated eight books from English into German.

When asked about her attitude toward the work of Christian Endeavor, she answered by quoting the words of the wife of Missionary Scudder of India, "If this is the call of the Lord for my husband, it is the call of the Lord for me, too."

They are both musical—Jutta plays the piano and flute, Konrad the guitar, and they both sing well, often leading song services or singing together.

Conny says that reading, working with slides, films, and movies, and hiking are some of his favorite pastimes.

The Marburg Mission has very generously agreed to give Conny up to three months per year to take part in meetings and to travel for Christian Endeavor. Jutta will join him as often as possible.

Conny feels that his election to the presidency is the call of the Lord to a worldwide service.

Impressions of 1986 Orient Tour

JAPAN

By Charles Meek (Texas)

Fifty-eight members of International Christian Endeavor's 1986 Fellowship Tour found themselves together at last in Tokyo International Airport on the night of July 31. As we were transported by bus across a darkened Tokyo it was obvious that new experiences awaited us. To our right, thousands of straphangers in a brilliantly lighted commuter train; to the left, of all things, Tokyo Disneyland.

To begin our visit we toured the city by bus, viewing the Imperial Palace Plaza and visiting the Meiji Shrine and Asakusa Kannon Temple. We soon learned that shrines are Shinto and temples are Buddhist, and that before entering, one ceremonially cleanses his hands and mouth with water.

The next day found us going by train to Nikko, a mountain resort area, to view the Nikko Toshogu Shrine, a tremendously lavish and colorful complex of buildings. We traveled up the mountains on a road with 48 hairpin turns, each of which threatened to bend the bus in the middle, lunched at the Lakeside Hotel on the shore of Lake Chuzenji, and visited 330-foot Kegan Waterfall.

On Saturday we rode the Bullet Train at 125 mph to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. We had a rare view (only available a few days of the month) of the cone of Mount Fuji on the horizon.

As we began to feel a little less alien, we visited more ancient shrines, temples, gardens, and castles, going to Nara, the still-more-ancient capital, learning about torii gates, and how in the old days the emperors had the glory, but the shoguns had the power. After six days, when we flew away from Osaka, we had much food for thought: how is it that a society can achieve such a cohe-

siveness of purpose as to operate so efficiently and politely? How is it that thousands of bicycles and scooters can be left unlocked and untended on public streets by day and by night with seldom a theft?

Perhaps our most challenging experience in Japan was a visit to Tokyo's Sangenjaya Church, United Church of Christ in Japan, served by Rev. Takashi Oku. What is it like to be a religious minority of one percent? Members of this church came to our hotel to escort us by surface train and subway to the church, down narrow streets into a little intersection where a lovely new building serves the congregation. Here a number of the members had assembled to meet with us for worship and fellowship. As we sang together "In Christ There Is No East Or West" we had for the first time a sense of being at home in a still-strange land, and our hearts were prepared for the experiences that lay ahead of us in Korea.

KOREA

By Mozelle Dick
(North Carolina)

The trip to the Korean Folk Village was a trip back in time. The artisans and craftsmen, doing what their ancestors did, were dressed in the kind of clothes and lived in houses that were replicas of those in which the Korean people lived 100 years ago. In their outdoor amphitheater we saw a performance of native dance, and then we were served a Korean meal.

Along the countryside, traveling from the village, we saw many high-rise buildings where fifteen years ago only rice was grown. The many shoulder-to-shoulder homes with their colored tile roofs and the many greenhouses made a very picturesque scene.

One afternoon we were privi-

leged to attend the National Theatre. Korean music and dances performed by the National Classical Music Institute were more than words can describe. The beauty of the dance, costumes, and music was excellent. The opening traditional Korean Fan Dance was well worth the long walk to the theater.

Another day we took a bus to the DMZ. At the lookout point we saw the fields that now separate North and South Korea. As we continued on the bus we were treated to a Korean box lunch of meat, fish, cabbage, rice, barley water, etc., to be eaten with chopsticks. Later a few brave Endeavorers put on helmets and walked into the tunnel built by the South to intercept the one the North was building under the DMZ.

No trip to Korea would be complete without a shopping trip to Itaewon. There the shops are in buildings, on the sidewalks, in the alleys, and one should be able to find almost anything he wants.

Each day in Korea was enjoyable and I only regret I did not have more time to see more places.

TAIWAN

Mrs. Alice Fuqua (Texas)

Taiwan, which enchanted 16th Century Portuguese mariners christened "ilha Formosa" (Beautiful Island), is the custodian and preserver of the world's oldest culture.



Most of the people are Chinese who originated from mainland China; they brought with them their manners, customs, rites, traditions, and distinctive way of life. Taiwan has an area of 35,969 sq. km. and a population exceeding 18 million. Hills and mountains cover two-thirds of the island.

It was nearly dark when we arrived in Taipei so we didn't get to see all the beauties of the land until the next morning, when we visited shrines, museums, and a handcraft center. We marveled at the traffic and the ability of the taxi drivers as they traveled so quickly down the streets with no apparent accidents.

We visited Chiang Kai-shek's Memorial Hall and enjoyed the beautiful landscape which surrounds it. We were reminded that Chiang Kai-shek, who was President of the Republic of China from 1911 to 1949, was a Christian. One of the amazing things which we observed was the two guards who stood watch by the huge statue of Chiang Kai-shek. They stood immobile for one hour before the changing of the guards.

It was our privilege to have Rev. Konrad Brandt, newly-elected President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and also Missionary Supervisor of the Taiwan Mission, to join us for dinner. He invited us to a meeting at his mission the next morning which several of us attended. This was the highlight of our visit to Taiwan. There were girls who worked in a nearby department store who came to the meeting, as well as others. Mr. Brandt told us about his work at the mission and showed us the facilities there.

HONG KONG

By Ruth Benner
(Ontario)

It was dark as the jumbo 747 began descent. Lights began to twinkle everywhere. I hoped the runway was somewhere among the beautiful lights of a city I had only



heard about but never seen—Hong Kong.

In this city one was aware of a great mixture of people from all parts of the world—some coming, some going, some remaining to do business.

One of the highlights in Hong Kong was having dinner on the Jumbo Floating Restaurant. Another was taking a hydrofoil to Macau, a Portuguese country on the mainland of China. I wanted to see Macau as our denomination is beginning mission work there. Now I have some idea of the small country with its many people, most of whom are Chinese.

Another day we had a free day and some of us decided to visit the United Brethren work. Rev. Peter Lee, Superintendent of Churches, was a very capable guide. He led us to the heart of the city by local bus and took us on a sampan ride in Aberdeen. We were entertained by the children of two churches competing in a Games Day. After some more walking and jerking bus rides we found ourselves at Grace Church which is on the third floor of a seven-floor building—not a skyscraper for Hong Kong. The



children had arrived, the winners of the Games Day. They presented us with bracelets they had made.

Before leaving we joined hands and in a circle had prayer together. That's what made Hong Kong special—meeting brothers and sisters in Christ.

CHINA

By Mrs. Kay Foster (New York)

Our group was greeted warmly at the Beijing Airport. As we rode to our hotel the highway was lined with beautiful lacy trees. Bicycles were everywhere—five million in Beijing alone—few cars but many trucks. The bus blew its horn constantly.

Crowds of people were everywhere as we visited the Beijing Zoo to see the pandas. Local buses were packed. Women were sweeping streets with large brooms. Construction is going on everywhere, apartment buildings, hotels, new roads, so there is much dust and dirt.

Fifty percent of the people live in compounds—several rooms around one bath and one living room. The new apartment buildings being built by local government have running water, electricity, cooking gas, and elevators. In spite of the poverty the people were neatly dressed. We saw no one in tatters.

Everyone works in China and jobs are assigned by the government. You can apply for a change.

(continued on page 14)

Texas Endeavorers

Meet To Balance

Their Lives

By Don Vespremi

Endeavorers from around the state met over Labor Day Weekend in Leakey, Texas, for their annual Worker's Conference. The H. E. Butt Foundation Camp provided an excellent setting as Endeavorers from Dallas, Houston, Abilene, and the Rio Grande Valley gathered for a weekend of inspiration, fellowship, and leadership training.

The theme, "Balancing Your Essentials," was formulated by Program Director Priscilla Parker of Dallas, a past president of the Texas Union. Guest leaders Ray and Jane Bartholomew of Pennsylvania and David Jackson of Columbus, Ohio, helped to develop the idea of putting one's life in "balance" with the Lord. The Bartholomews not only directed the entire musical program, but led workshops on contemporary issues. Dave Jackson, General Secretary of the International Society, provided messages of inspiration and led several workshops.

Other adult leaders, including Timothy and LaVonne Kribs, Willie Moore, Don and Joyce Vespremi, Judy Logue, Donna Dry, Gary Whitehouse, Mary Moffitt, Leslie Loftin, and Texas President Vickie Barner, brought helpful messages or led workshops; but the youth from around the state were responsible for virtually all devotional periods.

Highlights of the weekend were a Texas Round-Up (family-style picnic), a Moonlight Walk, Korean Convention slide show, and a unique cross-lighting consecration service.

Tour Impressions

(continued from page 13)

Some jobs pay as much as \$30 per month depending upon a person's education. In years past everyone was required to wear dark blue or gray and many still do, but young people are wearing more colors.

It was a great experience to see the Great Wall and walk on it. Many of us climbed part of it—it is very steep, but Dave Jackson went to the limit.

Perhaps you have read of the 1974 excavation of hundreds of Terra Cotta warriors, horses, and chariots near Xian. It was very interesting to see, but sad to think that these life-sized figures were made to guard the Emperor's tomb—such superstition and spiritual hopelessness!

We visited the 14-acre city square with large buildings on each side. Crowds were there, too. As we visited the 1969 air raid shelter, we walked into a garment store, our guide pressed a button, and the floor opened up. We went down the stairs into a complex of tunnels, stores, rooms, etc., with more than 19 entrances and exits scattered among the stores. There are enough underground passages to accommodate the entire population of Beijing—unbelievable!

We visited a Christian church built in 1865. The church has 800 at a service. It was started by Methodists and is now used by several denominations. The guides were impressed by our songs of praise and prayer. It was the first time one of our guides had been in a church.

That evening a young minister and his bride of that day came to our hotel to meet us and talk about their work in one of the three Christian churches in Beijing. Who of us would go to meet a group of foreigners on our wedding night? There is much dedication to the message of God's love as they hear His Word.

We must pray for China. I was able to give a Bible to our guide

Juliet and my niece Pat gave her Testament to the other lady guide; both were happy to receive them.

I have only skimmed the surface of our visit to China. We ate MANY new and interesting foods and all survived. I'd like to go back in ten years and see the changes. Progress is everywhere!

Four Wonderful Years

(continued from page 10)

We praise God that Endeavorers are to be found from the Shetlands in the North Atlantic to the islands in the South Pacific; from the Middle East to the Far East; from The Netherlands to Nigeria and in North and South America.

20th World's Convention

This report is being written immediately following the 20th Convention in Seoul, South Korea. Our Korean brothers and sisters did not spare themselves, and God blessed their efforts.

At the closing session I handed over my responsibilities as President to my newly-elected successor, Rev. Konrad Brandt of Germany. I cannot do better than wish for him and his wife Jutta as much fulfillment in the Lord's work as it has been for us during the past four years—four wonderful years which gave us so many opportunities to serve the Lord.

I cannot close without thanking all who helped us along the way, and another special "Thank you" to those who prayed for us around the world. Above all, we thank God for His all-sufficient grace and enabling power. To HIM be the glory.



The President's Corner

by Dr. Jack R. Rothenberger

Now that the Seoul Convention is completed, many people have wonderful memories of great crowds, beautiful people, inspiring messages, and fulfilling fellowship. Those who had the privilege of attending can most assuredly join Elder Yong-Kee Paik, Local Convention Chairman, in saying "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The Lord Jesus Christ was lifted up as the "LIGHT OF THE WORLD" during every aspect of the four days of the convention. The Living Christ was truly present and continues to inspire all who attended.

Jean and I accompanied fifty-seven persons from International Christian Endeavor on a six-day tour of Japan prior to the convention. The friendliness and gentleness of the Japanese people as well as the cleanliness of the cities impressed us very much.

It was an informative tour as we learned about the national religion called Shinto. Only 1% of the Japanese population has become Christian, because it is considered unpatriotic to leave the Shinto traditions.

The highlight of the Japanese tour was our visit with Dr. Takashi Oku, one of the World's Christian Endeavor Vice-Presidents, and his wife at their beautiful new church in Tokyo. The welcome was warm and the personal reception given by members of the church will be remembered always.

After a very pleasant and informative week in Japan we left Osaka for the convention in Seoul. What a surprise welcome we received as we left customs at the airport and were greeted by hundreds of Korean Christian Endeavorers, including Elder Yong-Kee Paik. I was announced and received a beautiful

bouquet of flowers. We greeted many new friends from many parts of the world at the airport that night.

The friendly spirit of all the Korean Christians was overwhelming. Nothing seemed to be too much for them to do for their visitors. Although communication in words presented some difficulties at times, all other forms of communication were warm, genuine, and useful. Throughout the convention meetings our translator, Dr. Young-joon Son did an excellent job. He sure worked very hard and made listening to messages in a strange language enjoyable. He will be living at Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, about ten miles from my church for the next year. Jean and I will be privileged to enjoy his company again.

My "sight-seeing" was brought to an abrupt end with the start of the convention. I opened the Pre-Convention Prayer Service with thoughts about our Lord's "WORLD" prayer, and encouraged the people to undergird everything we do at the convention and always with prayer.

The Koreans can teach us a great deal about the value of prayer. Every morning they begin their days at 5:30 a.m. with a prayer service and on Friday night they have an all-night prayer vigil. The growth of the Christian Church in Korea is phenomenal and it is all built on the foundation of prayer.

Each morning of the convention was given to a dawn prayer service, followed by Bible study and then a General Assembly in the large stadium. At the General Assemblies the 25-30 nations represented at the convention gave a variety of brief presentations.

One of the greatest "extras" of



the convention (in my opinion) was the late afternoon production of a beautiful professional dance/music program at the National Theatre. Words cannot describe the magnificence of that production. Afterwards a group picture was taken, but many people missed getting into the picture.

The national TV cameras were keeping a pictorial record of the happenings and the mass media gave very fine reports of the convention in the local newspapers. Huge banners announcing the convention were to be found across streets and on buildings throughout Seoul.

Jim and Betty Murdoch were ever present and presiding as the first family of World's Christian Endeavor. The installation of Konrad Brandt as the sixth President and all the other officers was well done and quite moving.

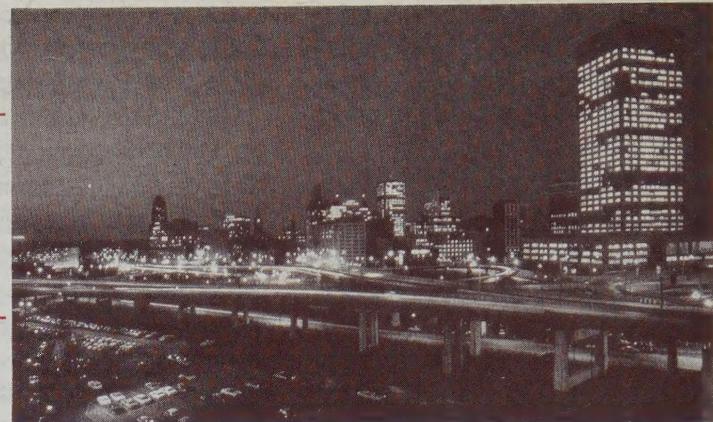
After the formal closing of the convention many of us gathered Saturday night for prayer and praise and fellowship. Our new President, Konrad Brandt, presented a very inspiring address which pointed us toward the future of Christian Endeavor.

The total experience was A-#1 and I thank God that the Living Christ was honored and upheld as "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." We all look forward to the 21st Convention in Warwick, England, in 1990.

“Exalting Christ”

Buffalo '87

The 59th International Christian Endeavor Convention will be held in Buffalo, New York, July 6-10, 1987. The convention theme is "Exalting Christ." Among the area tourist attractions are the world famous Niagara Falls, Fort Niagara, the Welland Canal, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo Waterfront Village, Crystal Beach Amusement Park, the Buffalo Naval and Serviceman's Park and Artpark, New York State's Park for the Performing Arts.



Economical Package Plan

The mass convention sessions will be held in the beautiful Kleinhans Music Hall. Delegates will be housed on the campuses of Canisius and D'Youville Colleges. An economical package plan rate for college housing offers delegates five nights lodging, Monday through Friday (two to a room) and all meals, Monday evening through Saturday breakfast, at a very special rate of \$150. This cost does not include the registration fee.

Buffalo '87 Registration

International Society of Christian Endeavor 1221 East Broad Street, P.O. Box 1110, Columbus, OH 43216

I enclose \$10 Youth (19 or under) \$20 Adult (over 19) \$25 after April 1, 1987 (Adult and Youth)
I will will not attend the convention \$10 Booster

Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss _____
(Circle proper title)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Church _____

Denomination _____

Member of _____ Christian Endeavor Society

Union _____ (Local) _____ (State) _____

My responsibility in Christian Endeavor is _____

Age _____ (If under 25) Over 25, check here